GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

PUBLIC SERVANTS – Registration and Stamps – Surprise check conducted by ACB over the O/o District Registrar, Rajamahendravaram on 04.12.2015 – Allegations of misconduct – Disciplinary action against Sri V.Ranga Reddy, District Registrar, Registration & Stamps, Rajamahendravaram (now retired) - Sanction Accorded – Common disciplinary proceedings initiated – Articles of Charge framed – Orders - Issued.

REVENUE (VIGILANCE-II) DEPARTMENT

G.O.Rt.No.187 **Dated:30-03-2021**

Read the following:-

1. From DG, ACB, VJY, Lr.Rc.No.183/RCO-REG/2015, Dated 10.02.2021.
2. G.O.Ms.No.77, Revenue (Vig-II) Department, dated 30-03-2021.
3. G.O.Ms.No.78, Revenue (Vig-II) Department, dated 30-03-2021.

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O R D E R :

In pursuance of the sanction accorded by the Government under Sub Clause (i) of Clause (b) of Sub Rule (2) of Rule 9 of the Andhra Pradesh Revised Pension Rules, 1980 for instituting departmental proceedings against Sri V.Ranga Reddy, District Registrar, Registration & Stamps, Rajamahendravaram (now retired) and in continuation of the orders issued under Rule 24 of Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Classification, Control & Appeal) Rules, vide reference 2nd read above, it is considered necessary to hold an inquiry against the said Sri V.Ranga Reddy, District Registrar, Registration & Stamps, Rajamahendravaram (now retired) in accordance with the procedure laid down in Rule 20 of the Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Classification, Control & Appeal) Rules, 1991.

2. The substance of the imputation of misconduct or misbehaviour in respect of which the inquiry is proposed to be held is set out in the enclosed statement of articles of charge (Annexure-I) and the imputation of misconduct or misbehaviour in support of each article of charge is enclosed (Annexure-II). A list of documents by which and a list of witnesses by whom the articles of charge are proposed to be sustained are also enclosed (Annexures-III and IV).

3. Sri V.Ranga Reddy, District Registrar, Registration & Stamps, Rajamahendravaram (now retired) is directed to submit, within ten days of the receipt of this Order, a written statement of his defence.

4. Sri V.Ranga Reddy, District Registrar, Registration & Stamps, Rajamahendravaram (now retired) is informed that an inquiry will be held only in respect of those articles of charge as are not admitted. He should, therefore, specifically admit or deny each article of charge.

5. Sri V.Ranga Reddy, District Registrar, Registration & Stamps, Rajamahendravaram (now retired) is further informed that if he does not submit his written statement of defence on or before the time specified in para 3 above, or otherwise fails or refuses to comply with the provisions of Rule 20 of the Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1991 or the orders / directions issued in pursuance of the said rules, the Inquiring Authority may hold the inquiry against him ex-parte.

6. Attention of Sri V.Ranga Reddy, District Registrar, Registration & Stamps, Rajamahendravaram (now retired) is invited to Rule 24 of the Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964 under which no Government servant shall bring or

(P.T.O)

attempt to bring any political or outside influence to bear upon any superior authority to further his interests in respect of matters pertaining to his service under Government. If any representation is received on his behalf from another person in respect of any matter dealt within these proceedings, it will be presumed that he is aware of such a representation and that it has been made at his instance and action will be taken against him for violation of Rule 24 of the Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964.

7. The receipt of this order may be acknowledged.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

RAJAT BHARGAVA
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To

Sri V.Ranga Reddy, District Registrar, Registration & Stamps, Rajamahendravaram (now retired) (Enclosed Annexures I to IV) **through** the Inspector General, Registration & Stamps, Andhra Pradesh, Vijayawada.(with a request to serve the order on the individual and send the served copy with dated signature to Government).

Copy to:

The Director General, Anti Corruption Bureau, Pandit Nehru Bus Station, NTR Administrative Block, 2nd Floor, Andhra Pradesh, Vijayawada.

The Inspector General, Registration & Stamps, Andhra Pradesh, Eedupugallu, Vijayawada, Krishna District.

The Deputy Inspector General, Registration & Stamps, Kakinada, E.G.District.

SF / SC

//FORWARDED:: BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER

ANNEXURE – I

ARTICLE OF CHARGES FRAMED AGAINST SRI VAKA RANGA REDDY S/O LATE KOTIREDDY, FORMER DISTRICT REGISTRAR, RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM,EAST GODAVARI DISTRICT.

Sri Vaka Ranga Reddy joined in the Government service on 23.08.1991 as Jr. Assistant in O/o Director of Collegiate Education, A.P. Hyderabad. Later he was selected and appointed as Sub-Registrar in Stamps and Registration Department through APPSC on 05.01.1995. He worked as Sub-Registrar at Bantumilli from 05.01.1995 to 29.05.1995, at Rajamahendravaram from 30.05.1995 to 20.07.2002, at Gannavaram from 22.07.2002 to 03.09.2004, at Gunadala from 09.09.2004 to 25.09.2007, again at Gannavaram from 26.09.2007 to 4.08.2010, at Alamuru from 05.8.2010 to 22.4.2013. Subsequently, he was promoted as District Registrar on 23.04.2013. He worked as District Registrar at Visakhapatnam from 23.04.2013 to 21.10.2014. While working as District Registrar at Rajamahendravaram from 21.10.2014 to 04.12.2015, he committed grave misconduct in as much as;

Charge: He while working as District Registrar, Rajamahendravaram indulged in corrupt practices by way of demanding and accepting illegal gratification other then legal remuneration from his subordinates i.e. 16- Sub-Registrars working under his control at the time of holding review meeting on 04.12.2015, in his office i.e 0/o District Registrar, Rajamahendravaram and also found unaccounted cash of Rs.67,000/- in his possession and in the premises of his office.

Thus, Sri Vaka Ranga Reddy, S/o Kotireddy, formerly District Registrar, Rajamahendravaram, East Godavari District by his above mentioned acts has exhibited lack of integrity, devotion to duty and conduct un-becoming of a Government Servant and thereby contravened Rule 3 (1) (2) of A.P. Civil Service (Conduct) Rules 1964 r/w 9 of A.P Revised Pension Rules, 1980.

RAJAT BHARGAVA
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

//FORWARDED:: BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER

ANNEXURE-II

STATEMENT OF IMPUTATION OF MIS-CONDUCT OR MISBEHAVIOR IN SUPPORT OF ARTICLES OF CHARGES FRAMED AGAINST SRI VAKA RANGA REDDY, FORMER DISTRICT REGISTRAR, RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM, EAST GODAVARI DISTRICT.

Sri Vaka Ranga Reddy, S/o Kotireddy, District Registrar, Rajamahendravaram, East Godavari District is a native of Rajamahendravaram, East Godavari District and his date of birth is 01.06.1959. He joined in the Government service on 23.08.1991 as Jr. Assistant in O/o Director of Collegiate Education, A.P. Hyderabad. Later he was selected and appointed as Sub-Registrar in Stamps and Registration Department through APPSC on 05.01.1995. He worked as Sub-Registrar in various stations. Subsequently, he was promoted as District Registrar on 23.04.2013. He was worked as District Registrar at Visakhapatnam from 23.04.2013 to 21.10.2014. While working as District Registrar at Rajamahendravaram from 21-10-2014 to till the date of Surprise Check i.e. 04-12-2015. He is drawing basic pay of Rs.59,890/- in time scale of pay of Rs.37,100 - 91,450/-. He was retired from service on attaining the age of superannuation on 30-06-2019. He is here-in-after referred to as Retd. Government Servant.

Charge: He while working as District Registrar, Rajamahendravaram indulged in corrupt practices by way of demanding and accepting illegal gratification other then legal remuneration from his subordinates i.e. 16- Sub-Registrars working under his control at the time of holding review meeting on 04.12.2015, in his office i.e O/o District Registrar, Rajamahendravaram and also found unaccounted cash of Rs.67,000/- in his possession and in the premises of his office.

FACTS AND EVIDENCE:

On receipt of reliable information that the District Registrar, Registrations & Stamps Department, Rajamahendravaram is indulging in corrupt practices by way of collecting bribe amounts as mamools from his subordinates i.e Sub-Registrars working under his control, at the time of holding review meeting on 04-12-2015 at his office the Deputy Superintendent of Police, ACB, Rajamahendravaram Range, Rajamahendravaram along with his staff and mediators conducted surprise check on the office premises of District Registrar, Rajamahendravaram on 04-12-2015 from 12.45 hrs to 21.00 hrs. During the said surprise check a total un accounted cash of Rs. 67,000/- was found in the possession of his office and the same was seized.

As there was prima- facie evidence that the Sub - Registrar and his staff are indulging in corruption and after following legal formalities, a case of Criminal misconduct was registered vide Cr. No. 11/RCO-RJY/2015 under section 7 and 13(2) r/w 13(1)(d) of the PC Act 1988 on 01-08-2015at 11.00 hours and investigated into.

The investigation revealed that on the date of surprise check i.e. on 04.12.2015 the surprise check party found 16- Sub-Registrars who are working under the control of Government Servant in the office of the District Registrar along with staff. During the search the Retd. Government Servant was found in his possession of Rs.32,000/- (consisting of 6 wads) excess amount than the amount declared by him in the Personal Cash Register. On further search, 6 covers were found in black color rexin bag available in the right side table drawer of the Government Servant which contained wads of currency notes. On verification, an amount of Rs.19,000/- was found in the said 6 covers. On further search yielded another 4 wads containing Rs.16,000/- were found at different places in the office of Government Servant. When questioned about possession of unaccounted money of Rs.51,000/- (Rs.32,000 + Rs.19,000) and recovery of Rs.16,000/- from his office premises, the Government Servant failed to account for the same. Hence, the DSP, ACB, Rajamahendravaram seized the unaccounted money of Rs.67,000/-, black rexin bag lagged as 'Samsonite' and six covers attested by the mediators. The DSP also seized relevant records and examined witnesses.

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The Investigation further revealed that the 16-Sub-Registrars who are present in the review meeting conducted by Retd.Government servant at his office on 04.12.2015 have paid bribe amounts as Monthly Mamools to Government Servant for ignoring administrative lapses committed by them in maintenance of office records, scanning of records, collection of stamp duty & registration fees during document registrations in their offices. The details of the said mamools given by the 16 SRO Registrars are as follows:

Sl. No.	Name of the Sub-Registrar	Mamools paid to the District Registrar.
1	Smt. K. Vijayamani, SRO, Allavaram.	Paid Rs.2,000 duly wrapped in cover and signed.
2	Sri M.V. Ramamohana Rao, In- charge, SRO, Amalapuram.	Paid Rs.5,000/-.
3	Sri Ch. Subrahmanyam, SRO, Ambajipeta.	Paid Rs.5,000/- duly wrapped in a cover and signed.
4	Sri V.Lakshmi Suryanarayana, SRO, Anaparthy.	Paid Rs.3,000/-.
5	Smt A. Saradha Devi, SRO, I.Polavaram.	Paid Rs.3,000/- duly wrapped in a Cover and signed.
6	Sri K.Pullam Raju, SRO, Kadiyam	Paid Rs.5000/-.
7	Sri V. Babu Rao, SRO, Korukonda	Thrown Rs.4,000/- under the table of Jr.Asstt.
8	Sri K. Subbarao, SRO, Kothapeta	Paid Rs.2,000/- duly wrapped in a cover and signed.
9	Sri V.Venkateswara Rao, SRO, Malkipuram.	Thrown Rs.2300/- in the office Premises of District Registrar.
10	Sri P. Radha Krishna, SRO, Mamidikuduru.	Paid Rs.2000/-duly wrapped in a cover and signed.
11	Sri M.V. Jeevan Babu, Joint SRO-1, Rajamahendravaram.	Paid Rs.10,000/-.
12	Smt K.V.Naga Venkata Lakshmi, SRO, Ravulapalem.	Paid Rs.5000/- duly wrapped in a cover and signed.
13	Sri N. Maladri, SRO, Mummidivaram.	Kept Rs.4,700/- in a shelve in the office of District Registrar.
14	Sri K.S.Syamala Prasad, SRO, Razole.	Paid Rs.6,000/-.
15	Sri M.Durga Ravi Shankar, SRO, Seethanagaram.	Paid Rs.3,000/-.
16	Sri J.V.Veera Prasada Rao, SRO, Pidimgoyyi.	Thrown Rs.5,000/- in the office Premises of District Registrar.

During the course of investigation, admitted writings and signatures of 6- Sub-Registrars viz. 1) Sri Ch.Subrahmanyam, Sub-Registrar, Ambajipeta, 2) Smt. K.V.Naga Lakshmi, Sub-Registrar, Ravulapalem, 3) Sri P.Radha Krishna, I/c Sub-Registrar, Mamidikuduru, 4) Sri K.Subba Rao, I/c Sub-Registrar, Kothapeta, 5) Smt. A.Sarada Devi, SRO I.Polavaram and 6) Smt. K.Vijayamani, Sub-Registrar, I.Polavaram were collected, the specimen writings and signatures were obtained in the open court. The scientific officer after analyzing the writings on the six covers seized from the possession of Government servant at the time of surprise in which the unaccounted amount was found, has opined that the writings on the 6 covers tallied with that of admitted, specimen writings as well as signatures of the said 6-SROs.

As per the statements of witnesses who were examined during the course of investigation U/s 161 Cr.P.C. and at the time of Surprise check, the Sub-Registrars used to pay the amounts to the District Registrar every month at the time of conducting review meeting for avoiding administrative lapses committed by themselves in the Sub-Registrar offices. On 04.12.2015, the Retired Government servant conducted review meeting with Sub-Registrars who are working under his

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control in his office. After the meeting, some Sub-Registrars met the Retd.Government Servant in his chamber gave monthly mamools and some are waiting at outside the chamber of Retd. Government Servant to give monthly moots and it is on record.

The 16-Sub-registers who were examined at the time of Surprise Check stated that they give monthly mamools to the Government Servant for avoiding administrative lapses committed them in their Sub-Registrar offices. They also stated that 4.12.2015, after review meeting conducted by Government Servant in his office, some of them met the Government Servant at his chamber and gave monthly mamools and some were waiting at outside the chamber of Government Servant to give monthly mamools and on seeing the ACB they threw the said amounts in the office premises and it is on record.

The investigation revealed that the Government Servant, while working as District Registrar, Rajamahendravaram, East Godavari District from 21-10-2014 to till the date of Surprise Check i.e. 04-12-2015, indulged in corrupt practices by way of demanding and accepting illegal gratification (monthly mamools) other than legal remuneration from his subordinates i.e 16- Sub-Registrars who are working under his control at the time of holding review meeting conducted by him at his office i.e. O/o District Registrar, Rajamahendravaram on 04-12-2015.

Thus, Sri Vaka Ranga Reddy S/o Kotireddy (late), former District Registrar, Rajamahendravaram, East Godavari District by his above mentioned acts has exhibited lack of integrity, devotion to duty and conduct un-becoming of a Government Servant and there by contravened Rule 3 (1) & (2) Of A.P. Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964 and himself liable for action under Rule 9 of the Revised Pension Rules, 1980.

The Government Servant has therefore, rendered himself liable for regular departmental action for major penalty.

RAJAT BHARGAVA
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

//FORWARDED:: BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER

ANNEXURE-III

LIST OF DOCUMETNS IN SUPPORT OF ARTICLE OF CHARGES FRAMED AGAINST SRI VAKA RANGA REDDY, S/o. KOTIREDDY (LATE), FORMER DISTRICT REGISTRAR, RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM, EAST GODAVARI DISTRICT.

1	Surprise Check Proceedings, dt. 04.12.2015.
2	FIR No.11/RCO-RJY/2015 of ACB, Rajamahendravaram Range along with occurrence report.
3	Attendance register of the office of the District Registrar, Rajamahendravaram, E.G. District.
4	Personal Cash Register.
5	Memo.No.G1/1162/2015, dated: 02-12-2015 of the O/o District Registrar, Rajamahendravaram.
6	Attendance sheet dt.4-12-2015.
7	Rough sketch of scene of offence i.e O/o District Registrar, Rajamahendravaram
8	Signed Statements of following Sub-Registrars obtained during the surprise check: 1. Cheemalakonda Subrahmanyam, Sub-Registrar, Ambajipeta. 2. K.Naga Venkata Lakshmi, Sub-Registrar, Ravulapalem. 3. P. Radhakrishna, Sub-Registrar, mamidikuduru. 4. K. Subbarao, Sub-Registrar (i/c), Kothapeta. 5. A.Saradha Devi, Sub-Registrar, I.Polavaram. 6. K. Vijayamani, Sub-Registrar, Allavaram. 7. M. Venkata Ram Mohana Rao, Sub-Registrar, Amalapuram. 8. V.L.Suryanarayana, Sub-Registrar, Anaparthi. 9. K.Pullamraju, Sub-Registrar, Kadiyam. 10. M.Vijay Jeevan Babu, Sub-Registrar-1, Rajamahendravaram. 11. K.S.Syamala Prasad, Sub-Registrar, Razole. 12. M. Durga Ravi Shankar, Sub-Registrar, Seethanagaram. 13. V.Venkateswararao, Sub-Registrar, Malkipuram. 14.V. BabuRao, Sub-Registrar, Korukonda. 15. N.Maladri, Sub-Registrar, Mummidivaram. 16. J.V.Vera Prasada Rao, Sub-Registrar, Pidimgoyyi.
9	Statements of following witnesses recorded u/s 161 Cr.P.C. : 1. Ch.Punya Syam Sudheer, S/o Ch.Prasada Rao. 2. Isukapalli Harerama Krishnaprasad S/o (late) Chittibbai. 3. Parvathina Ajay Srinivas S/o (late) Surya Bhaskara Rao. 4. Smt.Sana Satya Venkata Lakshmi, W/o (late) Veera Venkata Satyanarayana Murthy. 5. Smt. Motupalli Venkata Padmavathi, W/o (late) Siva Surya Prasadarao. 6. Sri Konala Srinivasa Reddy, S/o (late) Venkata Reddy. 7. Kum Vadlapati Pooja Latha, D/o V.Ramesh Babu.
10	Statements of following Sub-Registrars recorded u/s 161 Cr.P.C.: 1. Cheemalakonda Subrahmanyam, Sub-Registrar, Ambajipeta. 2. K.Naga Venkata Lakshmi, Sub-Registrar, Ravulapalem. 3. P. Radhakrishna, Sub-Registrar, mamidikuduru. 4. K. Subbarao, Sub-Registrar (i/c), Kothapeta. 5. A.Saradha Devi, Sub-Registrar, I.Polavaram. 6. K. Vijayamani, Sub-Registrar, Allavaram. 7. M. Venkata Ram Mohana Rao, Sub-Registrar, Amalapuram. 8. V.L.Suryanarayana, Sub-Registrar, Anaparthi. 9. K.Pullamraju, Sub-Registrar, Kadiyam. 10. M.Vijay Jeevan Babu, Sub-Registrar-1, Rajamahendravaram. 11. K.S.Syamala Prasad, Sub-Registrar, Razole. 12. M. Durga Ravi Shankar, Sub-Registrar, Seethanagaram. 13. V.Venkateswararao, Sub-Registrar, Malkipuram. 14.V. BabuRao, Sub-Registrar, Korukonda. 15. N.Maladri, Sub-Registrar, Mummidivaram. 16. J.V.Vera Prasada Rao, Sub-Registrar, Pidimgoyyi.
11	Letter of Advice, dt. 18.1.2017.

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12	Forwarding letters of Hon'ble Spl.Court for SPE & ACB Cases cum III Addl. District Court, Vijayawada, dt. .05.2017 and 06.06.2017 sent to FSL, Hyderabad pertaining to Specimen signatures and hand writings in Crime No.11/RCO-ACB,RJY/2015 of ACB, Rajamahendravaram Range.
13	Hand writing expert opinion obtained from FSL, Hyderabad vide T.S.FSL.no. DDP/4/2017, dt.21-07-2017
14	Letter vide No. E1/1101/2015, dt. 14.12.2015 of Deputy Inspector General of Registration and Stamps, Kakinada.

LIST OF MO'S

1. Unaccounted Amount Rs. 67,000/- (which was deposited as Term Deposit for 3 years in State Bank of India, Kambalcheruvu, Rajamahendravaram vide Account No. 38271223197 by the direction of Hon'ble SPI.Court for ACB, Rajamahendravaram.
2. Black colour Rexene bag labeled as "Samsonite".
3. Six paper covers.

RAJAT BHARGAVA
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

//FORWARDED:: BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER

ANNEXURE-IV

LIST OF WITNESSESS IN SUPPORT OF ARTICLE OF CHARGES FRAMED AGAINST SRI VAKA RANGA REDDY, S/o. KOTIREDDY (LATE), FORMER DISTRICT REGISTRAR, RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM, EAST GODAVARI DISTRICT.

Sl. No	Name of the witnesses
1	Sri Ch.Punya Syam Sudheer, S/o Ch.Prasada Rao, Engineer in the O/o District Registrar, Rajamahendravaram on behalf of TLS company R/O D.No.14-160, Sri Kameswara Apartments Dowleswaram, Rajamahendravaram Rural, E.G. district.
2	Sri Isukapalli Harerama Krishnaprasad, S/o (late) Chittibbai, Superintendent, O/o District Registrar, Rajamahendravaram, R/o D.No.23-12-5/B, Sriramanagar, Rajamahendravaram.
3	Sri Parvathina Ajay Srinivas, S/o (late) Surya Bhaskara Rao, Jr.Asst. O/o District Registrar, Rajamahendravaram, R/o D.No.73-14-5/1, Godthi Residency, A.V.Apparao Road, Rajahmundry, E.G.district.
4	Smt.Sana Satya Venkata Lakshmi, W/o (late) Veera Venkata Satyanarayana Murthy, Jr.Asst., O/o District Registrar, Rajamahendravaram, R/o D.No.4-14, Rajanagaram, E.G.district.
5	Smt. Motupalli Venkata Padmavathi, W/o (late) Siva Surya Prasadarao, Jr.Asst., O/o District Registrar, Rajamahendravaram, R/o D.No. 5-9-58/1, Kummari Street, Peddapuram, E.G.district.
6	Sri Konala Srinivasa Reddy, S/o (late) Venkata Reddy, Sr. Asst, O/o District Registrar, Rajamahendravaram, R/o D.No. 81-46-1, near A.K.C College, Venkateswara nagar, Rajamahendravaram.
7	Kum Vadlapati Pooja Latha, D/o V.Ramesh Babu, Working as Junior Asst. O/o Sub-Registrar, Rajamahendravaram, R/o D.No. 11-2-8, Flat.No. D-3, Pearls Nights, Seshasai street, Ramarao peta, Kakinada
8	The Deputy Inspector General of Registration and Stamps, Kakinada, East Godavari District.
9	Sri Tanniru Trinadha Ramarao, S/o Brahmandam, Age: 56 yrs., Asst.Executive Engineer, R&B, Town Buildings Section, Rajamahendravaram, R/o. D.No.14-133/10, near Reliance Petrol Bunk, V.L.Puram, Rajamahendravaram, E.G. District.
10	Sri Mandapati Praveen, S/o Musalayya, Age: 22yrs, Jr.Asst. O/o Executive Engineer, R&B Division, Rajamahendravaram, R/o D.No.55-9-15, R&B Staff colony, Opp. Central Jail, Rajamahendravaram, E.G. District.
11	Sri B. Rajasekhara Rao, District Inspector, A.C.B, Rajamahendravaram Range.
12	M.Sudhakara Rao, Dy.Supdt. of Police A.C.B., Rajamahendravaram Range, Rajamahendravaram.
13	Sri P.Ramachandra Rao, Dy.Superintendent of Police, A.C.B., Rajamahendravaram Range, Rajamahendravaram.
14	Any other witness.

RAJAT BHARGAVA
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

//FORWARDED:: BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER